

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02231 161128Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
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R 160810Z APR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2919
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2231

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILL, AWACS
SUBJECT: NATO AEW - FRG POSITION

REF: A. STATE 78248 DTG 072236Z APR 77. B. USNATO 2093
DTG 090822Z APR 77. C. BONN 6339 DTG 131229Z APR 77.

1. PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS REF A, AND AS A FOLLOW UP TO
DCM'S CONVERSATION WITH FRG CHARGE BOSS (REF B), AMBASSADOR
CALLED ON PAULS IMMEDIATELY UPON LATTER'S RETURN FROM
VACATION ON APRIL 14. PAULS' VIEWS ON NATO AEW TIMING
WERE GENRALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE INFORMATION GENERAL
BRANDT PROVIDED TO EMBASSY BONN POLITICAL COUNSELOR (REF C).

2. PAULS SAID FOUR QUESTIONS HAVE OCCURRED TO HIS AUTHORITIES;
THESE WILL HAVE TO BE ANSWERED BEFORE ANY DECISIONS CAN BE
TAKEN:

A. CAPABILITY OF NIMROD. WHAT COVERAGE WILL IT PROVIDE?
WILL IT BE ABLE TO COVER NORWAY? PAULS SAID THE NATO
MILITARY AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER THESE
QUESTIONS, AND TO DERIVE FROM THEIR ANSWERS THE NUMBER
OF AWACS NEEDED, BEFORE THE FRG CAN MAKE A DECISION.
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B. INTEROPERABILITY OF AWACS AND NIMROD. HOW WILL
INTEROPERABILITY BE ACHIEVED, HOW MUCH WILL IT COST AND
WHO WILL FINANCE IT? PAULS OPINED THAT HE UK WILL ASK
NATO TO PAY THESE COSTS; A REQUEST THAT HIS AUTHORITIES
WOULD NOT LOOK UPON FAVORABLY.

C. STATIONING OF AWACS. WHERE WILL THE NATO AIRCRAFT
BE STATIONED? PAULS PARTIALLY ANSWERED BY SAYING THAT
HE ASSUMED AWACS WOULD NOT BE STATIONED IN THE UK.

D. FRANCE. WILL THE FRENCH PARTICIPATE; IF SO, HOW?
IF FRANCE WERE TO BUY SOME OF ITS OWN AWACS AIRCRAFT,
WOULD IT PROVIDE ADEQUATE COVERAGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
TO HELP REASSURE THE ITALIANS?

3. AMBASSADOR MADE THE POINT ON THE NEED FOR AN EARLY
PROGRAM DECISION TO KEEP COSTS DOWN. PAULS UNDERSTOOD
THE LOGIC OF THIS ARGUMENT AND PROMISED TO TALK ABOUT
TIMING WITH STATE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHNELL AND
REPORT BACK TO US AT AN EARLY DATE. STRAUZ-HUPE

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